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Anxious thoughts
Navigating highs and lows on page 2

Chip off the old block
A deep dive into fish and chips on page 4

Go dogs go!
Local pups meet the Jonas Brothers on page 5

Season of music. Many local orchestras are taking to the stage over the holiday season. /FILE

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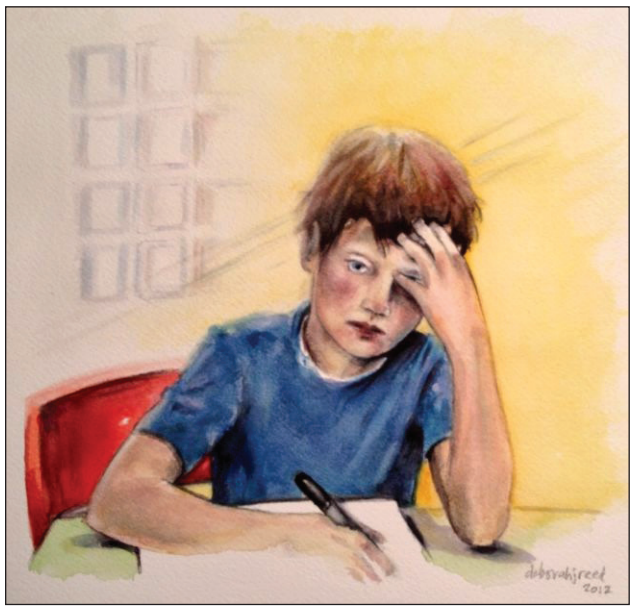
Nervous

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

I'M HEARING the word anxiety more often in common conversation, not because stress is new, but because we're paying much closer attention to every level of our personal health. I feel some shame around my own sensitivities, yet I'm always honoured when others trust me with theirs. But I grow less self-conscious, even when insecurities still materialize. Slowly, surely, I've learned that almost everyone panics. And fragility only skyrockets when you're shamed.

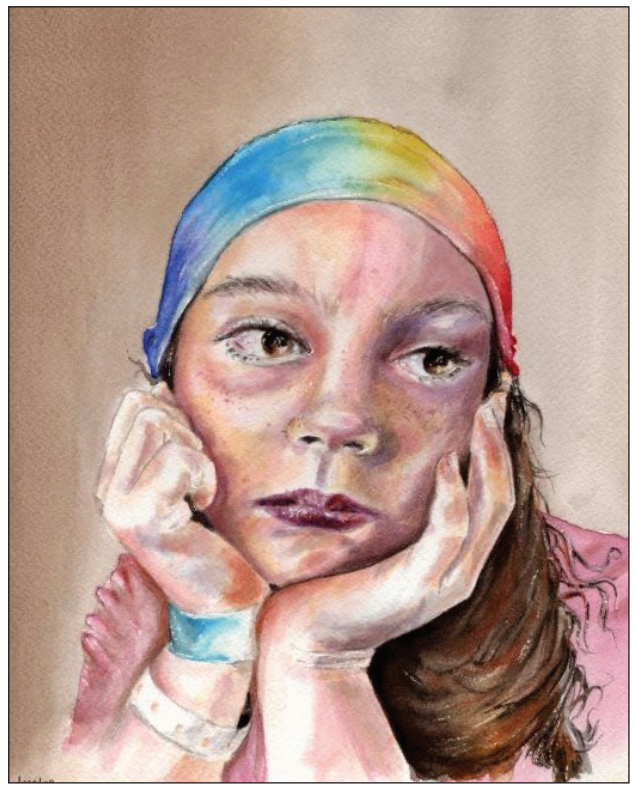
I used to hold weekly 'Peace Circles' with my Grade 5s. We'd pass around a conch shell, and nobody could interrupt the person holding it. I'd adapted the concept of respectful listening from the classic novel, *Lord of the Flies*. Law and order quickly deteriorated in that allegory, but as a classroom practice, Peace Circle modelled democratic ideals. Leader, group and individuals are equally important. And all expression is courteously considered before any decision.

It's in our nature to express. Nowadays, we can freely wield our 'armchair' entitlement in unbridled commentaries on social media. Unfortunately, judgement and mockery abound there, but followers are simultaneously reading increasingly honest revelations about anxiety. The 'new normal' of online nastiness is being powerfully countered by a promising spectrum of more compassionate opinion.



/Deb Reed

There's not much 'new' or 'normal' about extreme human mindsets, however. Rage. Terror. Despair. Too much voice. Too little. Whatever 'too' might look like is a difficult abstraction. We're constantly trying to figure out how to fit self safely among people. Hence, anxiety. It prevails routinely in sitcoms, podcasts, song lyrics. Notable characters represent it.



Peace Circle kids revealed to classmates that they were worriers. Math tests, middle school, the dark. Today's 'worry-beads', already developed by the ancients for stress relief, are now 'fidget toys', handheld devices with features designed to refocus unsettled energy. When worry feels unmanageable, we tend to seek distraction. Our choices for relief are either healthy, or not so much.

Anxiety's a big buzzword. It's impossible for us not to struggle with dramatic social, political and financial climates. Or literal climate itself. Many of us know to approach professional healthcare for extra personal support. Good medicine acknowledges emotional, psychological, mental and spiritual aches and pains, as well as those of skin, muscle, tissue and bone.

I've never liked driving. It's too speedy, and winter steals confidence. I get lost easily, but take myself about if I know the territory. Remarkably, I passed my driver's test years ago on first try. My anxiety will persist, but it also sensitizes me into not judging other non-experts at certain practical life skills. We all balance strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps we're not even weak. Just human. And as humans, we're often hardest on ourselves, needing near-lifetimes to undo every accumulated judgment. Words have impact. Kind words hold the strongest power.

Poet Rumi believed, 'all your anxiety is because of your desire for harmony.' Lennon/ McCartney believed 'all you need is love.' Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young suggested you 'teach your children well.'

Now. Whose turn is it to hold the conch?

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If a deer falls in the forest ...

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I THINK we have all heard the famous question, "If a tree falls in the forest, does anybody hear it?" A lot of people don't know this, but a similar question applies to deer.

That being, "If a deer falls in the forest, does anybody hear about it?"

The answer is invariably yes.

You see, a deer hunt just isn't complete unless everyone knows that you got a deer. Needless to say, there is a right and wrong way to do it.

The right way is to be inclusive and give your hunting partner credit. A successful hunter might include his hunting partner by saying things like, "Bill, thanks for coughing when you did. It caused the deer to circle around you and come to me … " Or, "You know Bill, if you hadn't missed that deer three times, I would have never got a crack at it." Then there is, "Thanks for eating all those beans yesterday, and creating that deer avoidance zone, Bill. It caused a lot of them to run my way." And, lastly, "I never thought I'd say this Bill, but I'm glad you napped in your stand while that deer fed in front of you for an hour. I hope my shot didn't wake you too abruptly."

Hunting partners appreciate being included in ways such as these. In my experience, most are generous types who would rather you not include them too much. In fact, they'd prefer to place the spotlight where it rightfully belongs – on you.

Take, for example the following scenario:

Someone says, "So how did your deer hunt go?

"Well," you say, "Hunting with Bill here is hilarious. Let me tell you what he …"

"Steve got a huge buck!" Bill will then blurt out selflessly, and just in the nick of time. Which is odd, since you actually shot a mediocre doe.

But, as every deer hunter knows, it's rude to correct another hunter who is telling a story. So, you wait for the chance to do so when Bill is finished talking. That's when you say, "As I was saying, Bill ... "

This simple sentence is usually enough to jog Old Bill's memory further, so he remembers other aspects of the hunt. That's when he might say things such as: "Steve made one of the finest shots I have ever seen … ," which again is odd, since Steve actually missed the deer, but hit a widowmaker branch above it, which caused it to fall on the animal's head and end its life in a fluke accident.

Again, this is something that might be corrected later, but certainly not while Bill is exploring another definition of what is and is not a good shot.

So again, you let Bill speak his truth …

And, when he finishes, the listener looks at me and inquires about Bill's hunt.

Which is when Bill, who can hardly contain himself, says, "Never mind me. Steve might just be the finest – and most discreet – deer hunter I will ever have the pleasure of taking out to an expensive lunch … "

"Steve? What about Bill?" the man asks again.

"Bill is the finest hunting partner I've ever had," I say. "Did I tell you about the monster buck he made a perfect shot on last year?"

And, you know, I can honestly attest to that too. The deer was in front of me, and the shot woke me up.

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Fish and chips ahoy!

DEAR READER,

If you read my first "Foodie in the Hoodie" column back in July 2025, you know that I am a self-proclaimed foodie and come by it naturally. You may also know that one of my great joys is sharing local culinary dishes and treats that I personally find exceptional, and which I feature at the end of each column. To date, I have written about the sub sandwich, the croissant, the tart, and the potato chip, listing my favourites. Since then, I have been waiting for another local food item to excite me enough to write a whole column on it. Happily, it just happened. Hence …

JERELYN CRADEN
Foodie in the Hoodie

Today we'll be looking at fish and chips – when, where and why it was created, other fun tidbits about it, and, as promised, where you can enjoy (in my humble foodie opinion) delicious fish and chips right here in Haliburton.

First, the history of cish and chips is both surprising and colourful. Fried fish was brought to London by Sephardic Jewish immigrants in the late 1400s. They cooked fish in a batter and fried it in oil, often as a way to have a meal ready for the Sabbath that could be eaten cold the next day. This "fried fish in the Jewish manner" was a popular street food in London. Fried potatoes (chips) – deep-fried chipped potatoes, was developed in Northern England. Joseph Malin is credited with opening the first shop in London around 1860, that featured the combination: fish and chips. The dish became a staple for the working class and gained national importance, especially during the World Wars, because it was affordable and a source of morale.

As for vinegar – it became a popular condiment for fish and chips in Britain around the late 19th century. This tradition developed as early fish and chip shops emerged during the Industrial Revolution, and malt vinegar was a cheap and widely available sharp condiment to add flavour to the dish.

The popularity of the combined dish spread quickly through industrial towns, providing an affordable and filling meal for factory workers. By 1910, there were 25,000 fish and chip shops in the UK. That's a lot of fish and tons of potatoes!

Now, it wasn't just the working class who loved fish and chips. Many prominent Brits were among this tasty combo's biggest fans including … (wait for it) … Queen Elizabeth II! That's right. According to a former royal chef, the late Queen Elizabeth II's preferred version involved a panko crust rather than the traditional batter. (Keep this note in mind when you read the reveal of my favourite spot for fish and chips in Hali).

Another prominent Brit and known admirer of the dish was former Prime Minister Winston Churchill. During World War II, the government made a conscious decision not to ration fish and chips in order to maintain public morale, and Churchill referred to the meal as "the good companions".

Here at home, former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been noted enjoying fish and chips on multiple occasions, especially during visits to Newfoundland and Labrador.

And now for a few big fish who are big fish and chips fans. The Beatles were famously photographed eating fish and chips during the filming of a promotional video in 1965. Bruce Springsteen is considered a regular at Leo Burdock's in Dublin. Snoop Dogg, Mick Jagger, the band Metallica, Daniel Day-Lewis, Liam Neeson, Russell Crowe, Sandra Bullock, and Cuba Gooding Jr. are all listed as celebrity patrons at the same Dublin chippy. Chef and TV personality Rick Stein called Leo Burdock's fish and chips the "best I've ever had". And, the late chef Anthony Bourdain was "truly honoured" to have eaten at the establishment and have his name listed on the wall.

And here in Haliburton … (drum roll) … we have Features Brasserie in Fort Irwin, whose fish and chips are divine! Yes, divine! I guarantee, if Queen Elizabeth II were alive today, she would be all over owner/operator Steve Rowell's, and co-owner/chef Alex McCracken's special fish and chips. Remember the note I wrote earlier about Queen E's favourite version being made with a Panko crust? Well, Features Brasserie uses Japanese Panko mixed with some secret ingredients for a crust that is crunchy on the outside with soft, moist haddock on the inside. Their tartar sauce is also yum, and their homemade coleslaw, fresh and not drenched in vinegar like offerings at many restaurants!

Fortunately, fish and chips at Feature Brasserie is always on the menu. Open every day except Wednesday. 5014 Haliburton Lake Road Fort Irwin, Haliburton. 705-754-2222.

Until next time, Dear Reader, remember to savour every moment – that way, everything you eat will taste a whole lot better!

Jerelyn Craden is a writer, singer, artist, and self-proclaimed foodie.

Based in Haliburton, she loves sharing information that moves one's happy meter to "high."

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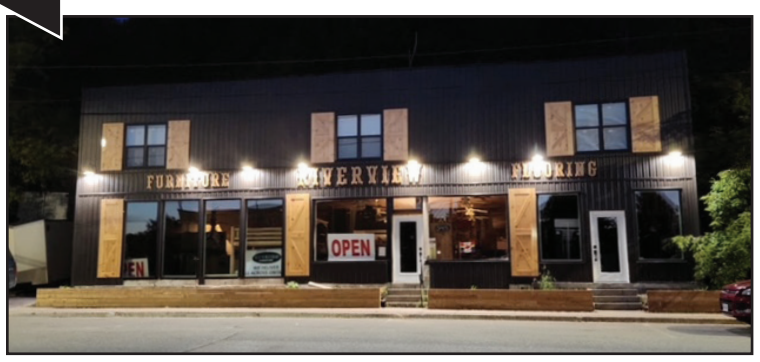

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Haliburton sled dogs hit big screen with Jonas Brothers

ADAM FRISK
County Life Staff

The huskies from Haliburton's Winterdance Dogsled Tours were back on the big screen, making a brief appearance in the new Disney Christmas movie starring the Jonas Brothers.

Winterdance's Tanya McCready and her dogs spent three days on set in Toronto back in January for the filming of *A Very Jonas Christmas Movie*, which premiered last week.

"It's pretty surreal," McCready said in a telephone interview.

It's the dogs' second movie appearance in as many weeks, following the release of *Frankenstein*, which premiered in theatres late last month.

"For us, we're pretty darn proud of them, that's for sure," she said.

The owner explained the dogs' scene was short, involving them pulling a sled to bring a rescuer, played by actor Randall Park, onto a wilderness set. The sled dog team's initial involvement required a three-day commitment: one practice day to ensure the dogs and sled could run on the artificial snow, a day teaching a stunt double how to drive the sled, and the final shooting day.

McCready said the dogs were recommended for the job by crew members on the *Frankenstein* set, which the huskies worked on in the winter of 2024, describing the set experience as a bit of a "homecoming," with many familiar faces from the previous film.

"It was like coming back to people and friends that we'd worked with the winter before," she said. "And the director, Michelle Yu, she was amazing to work with."

Because the filming took place in January, the crew made special accommodations, allowing the dog team to drive their large truck right onto the set.

"The dogs are used to it and everything is set up for them," the owner explained. "They come out and chill, and we have carpets for them."

McCready said that while she did not directly interact with the Jonas Brothers, they were close by, and the dogs became instant celebrities on set. The dogs spent their downtime serving as "great therapy dogs on set," meeting countless people, and, according to their owner, generating "tons of selfies." One of the Jonas Brothers was even spotted spending time with the dogs.

"People just come and visit with them and hug them, it was pretty cool," McCready said.

Winterdance's sled dogs have appeared in three Hallmark Christmas movies and several commercials over the last decade, McCready said.

Winterdance sled dogs pictured on set of the holiday flick A Very Jonas Christmas Movie. /submitted

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County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp. Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

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Anxiety

AS I WAS pondering what to write about in this week's editorial, I hummed and hawed around oversharing.

While I use this space of the paper to find the light in the dark, the magic in the mundane, I found that there was an overwhelming grey cloud hanging over my thoughts these days.

Anxiety. At this point in the paper, you'll likely have read Deb Reed's column *Nervous.* She's another writer who tries to see the good in the world, but this week, her work was different. She too had been rained on by that grey cloud.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

And while I navigated how much to share with my own experience around dancing in the rain, I chose to see it as a sign that she submitted a similar column. That perhaps there are others in this world, forgetting to see the sun when it's grey.

I am one of those people. It doesn't happen often. But when it does, it comes on like a flood.

"Anxiety" was a buzzword when I was growing up. Initially it seemed like something that was a medical condition, and as someone who earned good grades and had a permanent smile drawn on her face, that couldn't be possible. I was too "normal", for lack of a better word.

Then, as the waters of reality sifted through the filters of time, "anxiety" changed its course. It became normalized. A term we could slap onto any moment, any feeling, any challenge. Suddenly, everyone experienced these waves of highs and lows. And while that helped many of us feel seen, it diminished the experience for others.

Before I had kids, my anxiety seemed manageable. It came in the form of physical distress. Feelings of nausea, unease, restlessness. By the time I was able to separate that feeling from regular sick symptoms; adding the sticker of "anxiety" onto those trigger points, I felt like I had it under control.

I was able to put those feelings into a box, label it with a Sharpie in bold black letters; ANXIETY identified and closed up, packed away for another day.

But those cardboard boxes are flimsy. The feelings of fear and pressures would seep out when I would least expect them. Sometimes I could sweep them away again, and other times, they would close in; a quicksand threatening my air supply.

As a mom, my anxiety has reached new levels. Because now it's not just me I feel fear for. Now, I worry for the heart that beats outside of my body. Anything that could happen to me comes secondary to their worlds, their livelihoods, their dreams.

But they have their own legs, their own minds, their own hearts. And a sign of successful parenthood is that they know how to use those to run into the world. Do they have the foundation built to give them the strength to fly, while my feelings of unease seep through the cardboard box of care where I've packed those fears.

Anxiety comes in many forms, and it can be all-encompassing. While some people feel it physically, others have it controlling their minds, their hearts, their thoughts.

To experience anxiety is to be human, to some extent. Yet it's such a blanket statement, it's hard to use it as a term we relate with. We all experience this monster in the cardboard box differently. Some are able to package it up with waterproof movers tape, sealing it up in a state of permanence. Others haven't found their box yet, and the wisps of menacing tentacles weave and wind and wrap around each and every piece of life.

If you need support, especially during the holiday season, where feelings are heightened, do not be ashamed to ask for help. To take medication that reconnects the wires in your brain that are frazzled, to step away for a moment of peace during a window of chaos. Sometimes a deep breath doesn't give you enough air to combat the weight of the world, but it can act as a starting point.

Anxiety can feel heavy. It's there. It's real. It's terrifying. But it also showcases what's important to us. It brings our fears to the forefront, and reminds us what's worth protecting.

So as we navigate through the grey cloud that looms over so many of us; tackling the monster of anxiety, may we be reminded that we are never alone.

Top 10 reasons to buy a snowblower

WE'RE APPROACHING the time of year when many of us think about purchasing a snowblower. This is only because we are still aching from shoveling last winter. Also, as snow removal tools go, snow blowers are the only one kids want to use. Of course, there are other reasons for buying them too. Here are the top ten.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Buy one and it won't snow for the next four winters.
2. It's a lot easier than removing snow with an ice fishing auger and a straw.
3. They double as a pretty good manure throwing device come spring.
4. It's just one more desperate attempt to make winter exciting.
5. Without one, you have no chance of joining the provincial snowblower's federation.
6. You won't regret it, the first time you run over your snow shovel.
7. In the off season you can use it to grind burger.
8. So those who used to drive by you when you were shoveling never question your sanity again.
9. Because, despite its effectiveness, the neighbours still complain about your flamethrower.
10. Perfect for creating a screen of snow to mask your getaway.

Stay

Wind denting the steel sheet of Lake, waking to the honking of geese,
their wings flapping over the ragged waves, Air, jagged as icicles as I inhale,
needles of freezing Rain piercing the skin of Lake,
where a gaggle of geese remain behind,
congregating around the edge of the Lake, as their con-freres flee to warmer climes,
knives of Wind slicing through me, snatching my Breath as I peer up at the flock of geese forming Vees over the Lake,
creating order out of the chaos when they first flew up into Sky, their honks piercing through the pellets of Rain that pelt my cheeks,
my eyes watering from the cold, blinking away Wind that stole the leaves from their trees, now lying on a crust of Snow,
I bend down to pick up a leaf by its stem, grinning at the imprint it leaves behind in the Snow,
the perfect shape of an oak leaf, like pressing a cookie-cutter into dough,
my morning thoughts blurred by the honking of geese and the freezing Rain, staring out at the straggler geese that remain,
shivering beneath layers of coat and sweater and flesh, as I watch a pair plunge their heads under water,
while another pair stand on the shore, their heads tucked under their feathers, wondering whether they're sleeping
or just trying to stay warm, geese scattered along the edge of the Lake like leaves strewn across the crust of Snow,
their crumpled faces smoothed by Rain, the thinnest skin of ice cloaking the naked branches of trees,
teardrops freezing on their twigs where leaves used to dangle, this season of change,
when geese leave the Lakes and Rivers behind, their wings enduring Rain and Snow,
before they reach the place where they winter each year, wishing sometimes, I could do the same
and shed all my layers of winter gear, feel sunlight warm my flesh and bones, breeze bathe my Breath,
as I trudge along the shore littered with leaves,
just a smudge in the freezing Rain that's changing to clumps of Snow,
cloaking the feathers of these straggler geese that remain behind,
gathering in groups or in pairs while the gulls watch from the rocks, silent and still, snowflakes swirling around them,
Sky fading to the colour of their wings, as it releases streams of Snow that melts into the Lake,
my senses awakening, as I drink in the stark beauty of this winter scene, holding out my hand to catch a Snow crumb as it falls,
tiny as a grain of sand, standing here, shivering on the shore, watching the family of geese that have chosen to stay,
Wind fraying my Breath as I breathe, some days feeling fragile as a leaf encrusted in a skin of ice, but still,
I stay,
slipping into this season of stillness that cocoons my Soul in a silence soft as the falling Snow.

Sylvie Kalenda

SIRCHlight *Creating connection and resilience – together*

What warmth really looks like

Last weekend, I volunteered at our Share the Warmth event in Bancroft. I knew there would be a crowd, but I wasn't prepared for what greeted me when I arrived: a line stretching the entire length of the Thrift Warehouse building. Mary Ellen, our Co-Lead, had already let the first group inside, and the line outside waited patiently in the cold - some without coats or mitts.

Ten years ago, SIRCH started Share the Warmth. Generous people donate their gently used winter coats, boots, mitts and other gear. We then host giveaways in Minden and Haliburton. There are always plenty of items left, and they are sent to our Bancroft Thrift Warehouse to give free to North Hastings residents in need of winter wear.

This cold November Saturday, more than 200 adults and children arrived at Thrift Warehouse in Bancroft for the giveaway, 60 more than the Haliburton and Minden giveaways combined!

I've often wondered why there's a greater response in North Hastings. It isn't just about need — we know need exists here in Haliburton County, too. Many individuals and families in our own community face brutal winter conditions without adequate clothing, or they choose between heat, food, and essentials. But what happened in Bancroft wasn't about statistics.

It was about atmosphere.

Many of the visitors in Bancroft were clearly facing real hardships. One woman was living on the street. Several seniors had visible physical limitations. Some people looked tired, worn down, or worried. And yet - almost without exception - they were cheerful, patient, and warm with one another.

They held doors. They helped strangers find the right sizes. They chatted with staff, volunteers, and each other. Children saw my dog and made a beeline to pet her, and for a moment, everyone around them smiled. People waited their turn for cookies. They filled out ballots for a small gift card draw. There was no rush to get in or get out. No shame. No hesitation.

There was dignity in the room.

There was ease.

There was community.

A large part of that came from Mary Ellen, who greeted nearly everyone by name. People hugged her as they walked in. She asked about their kids, their health, the job they were hoping for, or the struggle they'd mentioned last time – and she remembered. Her care was sincere and immediate. And people responded in kind.

But the environment mattered too. Share the Warmth in Bancroft happened right inside the Thrift Warehouse – a familiar place where people shop regularly, joke with staff, and feel at home. That comfort removed barriers. No one had to walk into an unfamiliar hall or formal space and wonder who might be watching. There was no sense of "lining up for charity." It was simply community helping community, in a space that already belonged to them.

This weekend reminded me that how we offer help matters as much as the help itself.

When kindness is present … when dignity is honoured … when someone like Mary Ellen stands at the door and says, "I'm glad you're here"…people don't feel ashamed of needing support.

They feel connected.

And connection is something every one of us can offer, whether or not we run a thrift store or a clothing giveaway.

We can greet people warmly.

Notice someone who looks alone.

Help a neighbour find what they need.

Offer a gesture - big or small - that says, "You belong."

Share the Warmth may be about coats, mitts, and boots.

But last weekend, it showed me something deeper: warmth isn't just something you put on - it's something we give each other.

Submitted

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lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

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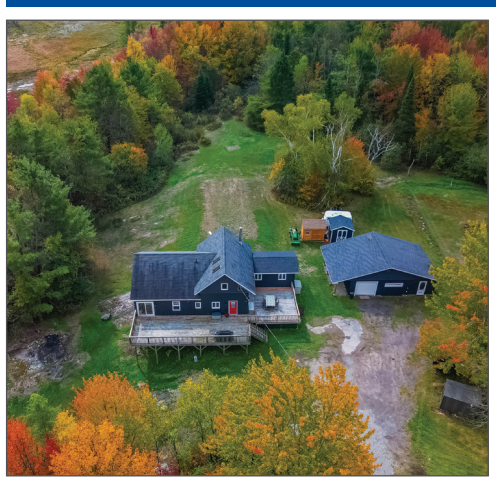
1110 SEDGWICK ROAD $930,000



100 acres of countryside. Separate building w/ public health approved commercial kitchen w/ high quality, commercial grade appliances. Ideal for launching/expanding a culinary business. Updated 2 bedroom home w/ loft. This home has been well cared for & thoughtfully upgraded. Property surrounded by 100 acres of Crown land. An abundance of wildlife at your doorstep as well as snowmobile and ATV trails.

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www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca

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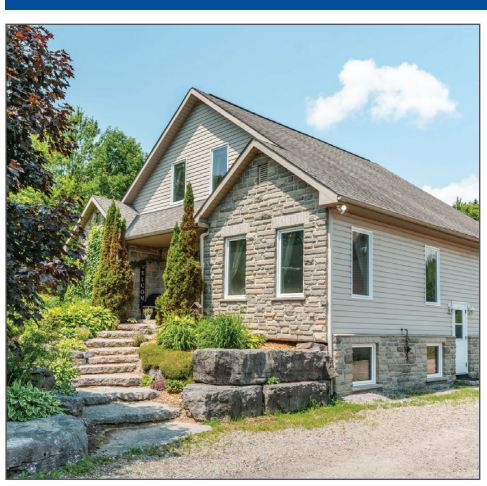
John Parish 705-457-5485
Marj Parish 705-455-2211
Sales Representatives

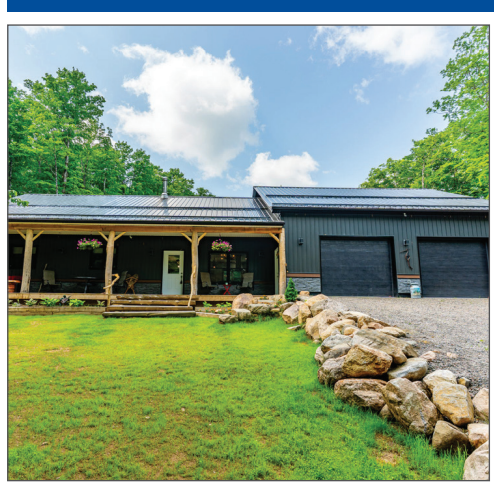
LUXURIOUS HOME WITH POOL $899,000



- 📍 3981 Deep Bay Road
- 🛌 3+1 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
- 💦 Fully fenced In-ground Pool
- 🌳 1.38 acres, 2,000 sq ft Finished living space
- 👨‍🍳 Eat-In Kitchen with Garden doors to exterior
- 🌺 Landscaped yard w/armour stone and perennial gardens throughout
- 🚗 Detached double Car Garage

Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

2430 HADLINGTON ROAD $885,000



This custom built (2022) home offers serene privacy and breathtaking forest views. The warm, rustic interior features natural wood finishes. Expansive windows fill the space, inviting the outdoors in. Enjoy tranquil mornings on the deck, and peaceful evenings surrounded by the quiet beauty of nature in every season. Massive garage for a workshop with lots of parking for large vehicles. Just under 10 acres.

Sue Sotiriou
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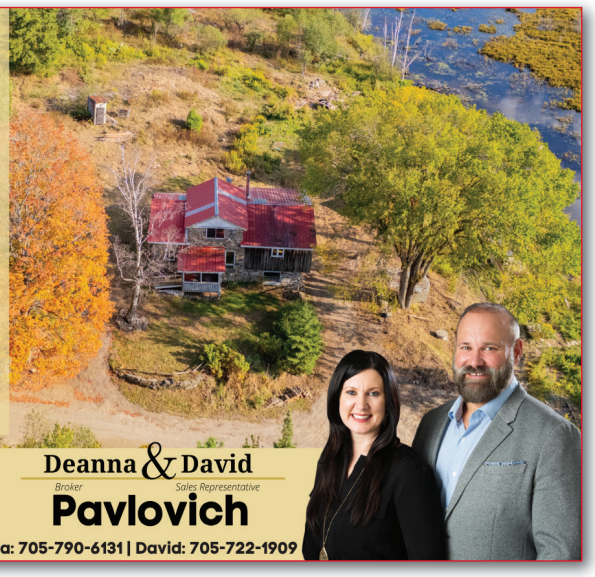

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Deanna & David
Broker Sales Representative
Pavlovich

Deanna: 705-790-6131 | David: 705-722-1909

10 MINUTES FROM HALIBURTON $519,000

1 1/2 storey private home with 2+1 bedrooms and just over 1500 sq. ft. of living space - galley style kitchen with plenty of storage space - freshly renovated living area with new pot lighting - w/o to font and side deck - main floor laundry with a 2pc. bath - 3 pc bath on 2nd floor - new plank flooring on second floor - w/o partially finished lower level - FA propane heat - 1.58 acres of privacy

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ted@tedvasey.ca

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* Spacious Double Loft
* Partially Finished Lower Level
* Close to Beach and Lakes

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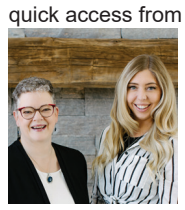
Out Standing In Our Field

GULL RIVER HOME $689,000

Meticulously maintained, this 4 bdrm year-round home sits on the beautiful Gull River & features a large yard with a waterside gazebo. The home boasts a fully finished basement with a separate entrance, a heat pump (with AC), woodstove, propane stove, central vacuum, separate laundry, & a backup generator. Enjoy excellent fishing & water fun with boat access to Gull Lake or up-river to the town dock or Rotary Park. A prime location at the South end of the County for quick access from the GTA.



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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A foggy morning by Tammy Nash

Nuthatch by Maggie Lawrence

Bald Eagle high over Fort Irwin by Randy Barber

A cute pine marten by Tammy Nash

Winter waters by Debi Ireland

Bull moose by Tammy Nash

Haliburton Lake beauty by Maggie Lawrence

Snowy deer by Jill Moulton

A blanket of leaves by Debi Ireland

Juvenile loon by Jill Moulton

Porcupine eating a snack by Randy Barber

OPP reminds drivers they must stop for school buses

The Central Region Headquarters of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding all motorists of the critical importance of stopping for school buses when their overhead red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, drivers must stop at least 20 metres away from a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing and stop arm activated. Failing to do so is not only illegal but puts children's lives at risk. This applies to drivers approaching from both directions unless the roadway is divided by a median.

Penalties for failing to stop for a school bus include:

- First offence: Fine of $400 to $2,000, six demerit points, and a significant increase in insurance premiums.
- Subsequent offences: Fine of $1,000 to $4,000, six demerit points, and possible jail time up to six months.
- Vehicle owners can also be charged if their vehicle is involved, even if they were not driving at the time.

Safety Tips for Drivers:

- Stop when school bus lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. It's the law.
- Stay alert in school zones and residential areas where children may be walking or biking.
- Watch for children crossing roads and walking to school, especially during peak times (7-9 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.).
- Put your phone away. Don't drive distracted! Distractions can cost lives.

The OPP urges the public to report any incidents of vehicles failing to stop for school buses by calling 9-1-1 and providing the vehicle description, license plate number, location, and time of the incident. If reporting after-the-fact, members of the public can also contact the non-emergency line at 1-888-310-1122 or submit information anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

For more information on school bus safety, visit Ontario.ca/schoolbus.

Submitted

What propels you into motion?

SNOW CAME early this year, I mean really, we should be ready in November, but overall, there is an unwritten agreement that November snow is too early. December is wondrous and then anytime in January we start to complain that it's hanging around.

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

The snow has an immediate effect on those of us that have a vehicle; if we do not already have them, we are in a rush to get our snow tires on. This week I have heard many stories of people making appointments, visiting garages overrun with tire changes and lamenting not being able to get an appointment.

We know the snow will arrive, we know it's a task that needs doing, however, this is an event that immediately propels us into motion. Are there other things in our lives like this? Perhaps the illness of a close friend or relative spurs us on to make a healthy change? Maybe the neighbour being broken into, launches us into a home security mission? Or a speeding ticket slows us down for a good long while in our driving.

We have so much to worry about, handle, do and plan, it becomes so hard to get it all into our weeks. I met one person this week who said, I simply put my snow tires on Remembrance Day and take them off at Easter, I do not wait for the weather to remind me. I admire that kind of planning.

They say that one of the secrets of Steve Jobs was that he worked intentionally to limit his choices, for instance he did not deviate very often from one outfit, thus eliminating the choice of what to wear. When we let our planning be influenced by the external, we may always feel stressed or behind. Is there one thing we can just book, just get done or pare down in choices that would smooth out the busyness? Let's get ahead of the snow, let›s work out a way to have a smoother ride in all weather.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials every Friday starting at 5 p.m. May purchase special and eat in club room downstairs. Clubroom opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5:30 p.m.
Special events:
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting and 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
3rd Sunday of the month Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (members only)
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Monday: Nov. 24 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Wednesday:
Nov. 26 Darts $5/player 2 p.m.
Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Cribbage League 6:30 – Sign up at the Legion
Thursday:
Nov. 27 Cornhole $5/player 7 p.m.
Nov. 27 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday:
Nov. 28 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, 12 p.m.
Nov. 28 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Saturday:
Nov. 29 Open Mic. Free. 2 to 6 p.m.
Nov. 29 Nacho Average Trivia 7 p.m. $5/Player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222

Believe in the Magic of Giving!

Your holiday gift in support of LOCAL HEALTH CARE helps create magic all year long!

This is the Magic of Giving...

The new Diagnostic Imaging wing is almost complete, 100% funded by this community. State-of-the-art technology in the County, reduces travel for imaging services and frees up space for a dedicated mental health room.

Investing in equipment is investing in our community. The new CT Scanner is attracting skilled professionals and strengthening rural healthcare for our community. **HHHS is evolving toward a model of excellence in rural healthcare.**

The need for Meals-On-Wheels subsidies has doubled in less than a year. Last year, we shared over 10,000 meals, bringing comfort and care to our most vulnerable neighbours. This year, we aim to do even more.

Long-term Care residents now benefit from "MealSuite" an innovative nutrition system that provides personalized care. **Thanks to community support, HHHS staff have more time to engage with residents.**

"One of the Best Investments You Could Make"

Don and Anne have deep roots in the Highlands – Don's great-grandmother built the Bonnie View, now a local landmark. But Don's cancer treatments became more intensive, the couple faced a challenge. The radiation was exhausting, and the long drives to appointments was becoming impossible.

Don had always been the driver, but with his health declining and Anne nervous to get behind the wheel again, they didn't know how they would manage.

That changed when they learned about **HHHS Community Support Services' medically necessary transportation program** during a seminar at their apartment complex.

"Once we spoke with the intake team, we learned we qualified for the subsidy," Anne says. "We had our first ride booked before the end of the meeting."

In September alone, Don took **seven trips to Peterborough** and one to **Oshawa** for treatment – each trip costing **$25** thanks to donor-supported subsidies.

"It's been really good," Don says. "It's taken the pressure off both of us, and now we're dropped right at the door, so I don't have to walk as far with my walker. We have marvelous volunteers, and this program means so much to people like us who want to stay independent."

Last year, the Foundation **subsidized over 10,000 kilometres** of medically necessary travel. With your help, **we can exceed that this year**.

This is the magic of giving.

To donate by mail make your cheque payable to:
HHHS Foundation

☐ $35 ☐ $75 ☐ $200 ☐ Other $_____

Donor Name _____

Address *(required for tax receipt)*

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Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Believe in the Magic of Giving Today!

☐ Yes! Please send me email updates on the impact of my gift

☐ I'm thinking of adding HHHSF to my Will, please contact me

☐ Please do NOT publicly acknowledge this gift – I wish it to be anonymous

In Memory of:

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2025

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STORAGE

Indoor heated boat storage in Haliburton: $90 per foot for the season. Hydro provided. Call Brett at 647 405 0143.

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Meeting Space for Rent: Blue Sky Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright open space downtown with private entrance and washroom. Available for rent by the hour, half or full day. Contact: **705-457-3500** info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

FOR RENT

Large one-bedroom apartment available for rent December 1st. Single, mature, non-smoking tenants preferred. Fully furnished. Includes water access, private entrance, and 400 sq foot screened porch. 10 minute drive from Haliburton. $1700 per month. Includes hydro, heat, wifi, and parking. Please call **705-457-0861** or **email michelinejohnson21@gmail**.com. Pictures available upon request.

Newly renovated 2-unit house on 9.5 scenic acres near Haliburton. UPPER: 2-bed, 1-bath & LOWER: 1-bed, 1-bath. Features open-concept living, new appliances, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces. 10 minutes from Haliburton & perfect for peaceful living. Contact: info@aboveboardcarpentry.com **705-455-2196**

All inclusive rental 2 bedroom & 2 bathroom mini home with garage and basement, new build. Available February 1. $2,900. Call 613-334-0357

Main floor brick house two bedroom for rent close to town with carport $2,800 all inclusive.

Two bedroom walkout unit $2,400 All inclusive. Contact 613-334-0357 for more information Available Dec 1.

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2 bedroom walkout close to town $2,800 all inclusive New Build Contact 613-334-0357 for more information Available immediately.

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DONATIONS WANTED

THE GREAT SOUTH LAKE PAJAMA PROJECT. Drop-Off: Haliburton Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre (Old Stedmans basement!). We urgently need a location in Minden! How You Can Help: Donate new pajamas for all ages and seasons. Pickup or direct shipping available. Info: 705-796-8265

COMING EVENTS

The annual craft Sale of the Wilberforce Heritage Guild. **HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE**. Lloyd Watson Centre, 2249 Loop Rd., Wilberforce. **Saturday, November 29**. Hours 9:00am to 2:00pm. Lunch will be available from the Wilberforce Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Lots of great items for sale from our large room of venders, including holiday treats & baked goods, Christmas decorations and a large variety of gift items. Questions & information for venders' contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598, or email wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Children's Christmas Gift Sale

St. Paul's Anglican Church
19 Invergordon Ave., Minden

Friday, December 5, 4pm to 7pm
Saturday, December 6, 10am - 2pm

Nothing cost more than $1

Children Bring your List to Shop for ...
Your Parents
Grandparents
and Siblings

Enjoy some "ME" time while our volunteers help your child shop. We wrap and tag gifts ready to take home and put under the tree.
Everyone is welcome!

25 words. Your ad will run in The Echo, The Times & County Life **for $15 plus HST.** ***Call Us Today!***

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Genealogy for Seniors
When: Thursday, Nov. 27 noon to 1 p.m. at the Highland Grove Library or 2pm at the Cardiff Library
Curious about where you come from? Join us for an inspiring introduction to family history research led by Adele Espina of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, with support provided by the Government of Ontario. This workshop will walk you through the steps of building your family tree—from locating historical records to organizing your research and uncovering meaningful stories from your past.

Tech Help Walk-in-Clinic
When: Friday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Wilberforce Library
Stuck on a tech problem? First come, first served. Each person gets a 30-minute session with library staff to tackle one specific technology challenge. One session per person per day.

A Concert of Hope - Youth Unlimited
When: Saturday, Nov. 29 2 to 4 p.m.
Where: Lakeside Church, 2 Park St.
Tickets available at the door by donation. Doors open at 1:15pm. Join us for an afternoon of stories. Music by Anna Morgan, Ella and Grant Gooley. Dance performance by Shawn Collins. Christmas Apple Pies sale. Christmas Cakes made by the youth. Holiday Raffle Tickets. For more information call 705-809-1740.

Holiday Craft Sale
When: Saturday, Nov 29, 9 am – 2 pm
Where: Lloyd Watson Center, 2249 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Our many venders will be selling great things, including Christmas items, gifts and baked goods. Lunch will be available.
Contact: Barb Schofield, 705-448-2598, Wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library Book Sale
When: Sat., Nov. 29 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Dysart Branch, 78 Maple Ave. Haliburton
Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Payment is by cash or cheque donation. All money raised by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Highlands Wind Symphony 2025 Holiday Concert
When: Sunday, Nov. 30 at 2:00 pm
Where: Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre
Adults $15/Family $30. Featuring: Highlands Wind Symphony & Highlands Swing Band with vocalist Jerelyn Craden. Cash bar open before the concert and during intermission. Tickets at Masters Bookstore in Haliburton, or Minden Pharmasave. Call or text 705 457-0455 for more info e-transfer available for tickets, call or text for info.

Recurring events

Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Wilberforce Visitor Information Centre
When: Thursday to Monday 10 a.m. 4 p.m. (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday)
Where: 2786 Essonville Line in Wilberforce, at the Curling Club
We offer mineral permission to collect forms, directions, geocaching information and GPS rentals, trails, events, and other general area information. Free Wi-Fi is also available.

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Packing a punch
Fourteen-year-old Jake Graham of Minden throws a punch during a karate class led by shodan Owen MacKeigan of the Minden Wado-Kai Karate Club last Wednesday at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. Classes are held Wednesday and Friday evenings. MacKeigan, who is an alternate in kumite (one-on-one fighting) with the Shintani Wado Kai Karate Federation National Team, has students from six-years-old and up. His grandfather and nidan Sid MacKeigan also instructs. For more information call 705-286-4259. **Darren Lum** Staff

Less severe winter expected

David Phillips tells the *Times* he's not expecting a repeat of last year's weather

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

This winter should not be as severe as the frigid, snowy winter Haliburton County residents and many Canadians experienced last year.

Haliburtonians and most Ontarians woke up to a blanket of snow Monday morning, with five to 10 centimetres of the stuff falling.

"This is kind of the first test for us this year," David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada, told the *Times* on Nov. 17. "We're seeing, provincewide, more snow than we've had."

While the county had received some snow in days prior, Monday marked the first substantial snowfall of the season for much of the province.

"The winds are going to be very strong," Phillips said, explaining more snow and accompanying snow squalls were expected during the first few days of the week. "As they move away, the cold air is going move in."

The snow falling Monday came from what Phillips referred to as the lake effect engine, cooler atmospheric conditions, sweeping across warmer lakes and picking up water

see TEMPERATURES page 5

Places for People continues to grow

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

2014 was a big year for Places for People, with the non-profit housing corporation opening its third rental property.

The organization held its annual general meeting at Carnarvon's Zion United Church on Nov. 14 and president Max Ward revisited the project, which renovated a house on Minden's Newcastle Street into an affordable rental unit.

"The open house itself was a huge success," said Ward of the March event, noting it garnered the attention of CTV.

Tenants moved in April 1.

A rent supplement from the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation came in handy when the tenants suffered a vehicle collision, interrupting their employment for a number of weeks.

August also saw a tenant from Places for People's Carnarvon building achieve her goal of being able to afford her own home.

There was a smooth transition of new tenants into the space, meaning no interruption in rent for the corporation.

Rent is used to pay mortgages and utilities and each month, five per cent of tenants' rent is put into a trust fund for them to access.

As outgoing board member and chairman of the tenant selection committee Norris Turner noted, this year three families

see REVENUE page 2

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Kennisis River — $725,000 — MLS X12137708 — 1 | 3

Eagle Lake Area — $659,900 — MLS X12095585 — 1 | 2

West Lake Area — $579,000 — MLS X12411405 — 1 | 3

Opportunity *Price Refresh*

Gelert Road — $315,000 — MLS X12267121 — 1 | 2

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kawartha Lakes — $1,479,000 — MLS X12182250 — 3 | 3

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Canning Lake — $924,900 — MLS X12199617 — 2 | 3

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Buckslide Road — $825,000 — MLS X12457432 — 3 | 5

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